IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-9 (cancelled)

10. (previously presented) A banknote validator including an optical sensor for sensing optical characteristics of a banknote being validated, the optical sensor comprising a light source, a light guide and a photodetector which is preceded by an optical filter, wherein the light source is a source of broadband light and the light guide is arranged to operate as both an incident light-directing means for directing light from the light source onto the banknote, and as a reflected light-directing means for directing light reflected from the banknote to the photodetector via the optical filter.

11.(cancelled)

12.(previously presented) A banknote validator according to claim 10, wherein the light guide is substantially in the form of a trapezoid, the narrow end of which is adjacent to the light source and the photodetector and the broad end of which is adjacent a banknote path.

13.(currently amended) A banknote validator according to claim 10, ~~11, or 12,~~ wherein the light source produces light substantially across the whole of the visible spectrum.

14.(previously presented) A banknote validator according to claim 10, wherein the optical sensor comprises a plurality of photodetectors and a plurality of optical filters to which light is directed by the light guide, the optical filters having different passbands and being associated with respective photodetectors.

15.(currently amended) A banknote validator according to claim 14, wherein the filters comprise 3dB stopbands of ~~the filters of~~ 420-720 nm and 480-540 nm together with >820 nm ~~respectively~~.

16.(previously presented) A banknote validator including an optical banknote sensor configured to sense light reflected by a banknote being validated, characterized in that the sensor is configured to sense light reflected obliquely from the banknote being validated.

17.(previously presented) A banknote validator according to claim 16, wherein the sensor is configured to sense light reflected from the banknote being validated at an angle in the range 60° to 80° to the surface of the banknote at the point of reflection.

18.(original) A banknote validator according to claim 17, wherein the angle is 70°.

19.(previously presented) A banknote validator according to claim 16, wherein the optical banknote sensor comprises a light guide for guiding light from the banknote being validated to a photodetector.

20.(currently amended) A banknote validator according to claim 19, wherein the light guide comprises a transparent, trapezoidal and planar solid having a narrow end and a broad end, the narrow end being adjacent the photodetector and the broad end being adjacent a banknote path.

Claims 21-27 (cancelled)

28.(currently amended) A banknote validator according to claim 12, wherein the light guide comprises a translucent and planar solid.